## A MODERN QUEEN OF SHEBA.

PART IN ITALY'S DEFEAT.

Not to the Negus Menelek, but to his remarkable consort. Empress Taoti, are the Italians indebted for the defeat of all their efforts to scure possession of Abyssinia. These efforts have continued without interruption since 1885. estalling the loss of an incalculable amount of ife treasure and prestige. No one will ever know exactly how much this attempt to conquer the most fierce and warlike nation in the world, and to secure those fertile valleys and tablelands of Abyssinia that are defended by well-nigh impregnable mountain fastnesses, has cost Italy. It was an enterprise that was doomed to failure from the very outset, and can have



THE EMPRESS TAOTI.

been suggested to the government of King Humbert only by some one who had at heart, not the welfare, but the misfortune of Italy. Yet it cannot be denied that the latter had plenty of warning of the fate in store for the undertaking. Cardinal Massella, for instance, who spent nearly twenty years of his life engaged in missionary work in Abyssinia, was never tired of urging his countrymen to abanden so hopeless a project as that of reducing Abyssinia into an Italian colony, and the exence of many other disinterested travellers and explorers, as well as the history of the Ethiopian Empire, were there to show King Humbert and his Ministers the insane folly of their enterprise.

A CITY OF DISEASE AND DEATH.

Massowah, like Suakim, is a fortified town situated on a coral island and connected with the mainland by a long mole or embankment. It is without exception the hottest place on the whole of that terrible Red Sea coast. Even in midwinter the thermometer is usually above 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, and ague, fever and dysentery combine to render the place almost uninhabitable to Europeans. Yet here the unfortunate Italian troops, many of them youths fresh from the Alps of the Pledmont, are kept



THE NEGUS MENELEK.

for months together after their arrival, under the pretext of acclimatizing them. Then, thoroughly enervated and demoralized by a prolonged stay in this dreadful pesthole, they are sent out to storm the mountain fastnesses which guard the approach to the tablelands of Abyssinia, fastnesses that are defended by hardy mountaineers of absolutely perfect physique. These natives are armed for the most part with those very same chassepots which were first used by the French troops forming the guard of Plus IX, at the battle of Mentana, against the Italians under Garibaldi, every one of them bearing engraved on the barrel the armorial bearings of the Papacy.

Massowah was presented by the English to the Italians, who certainly never received a more fatal gift. It is scarcely necessary to add that England had no legal right to give it away, since it did not belong to her. She had appropriated it, however, along with a number of other cities and towns belonging to the Sultan of Turkey and to the Khedive of Egypt along the Red Sea coast. Finding it inconvenlent and awkward to keep, she presented it to King Humbert, on the condition that he should n return assist the British forces proceeding against the Mahdi, by creating a diversion against the latter in the direction of Kassala. Humbert accepted the gift, hoping to be able to establish a great Italian colony in the fertile highlands of the Province of Boghos. His Government had become alarmed by the enormous increase of Italian emigration to North and South America, thoroughly realizing that emigrants to this continent are quickly absorbed into the population of the New World, and become totally lost to Italy. It was hoped that by directing the stream of emigration into an Italian colony it might become an additional source of strength instead of a loss of force to the Italian nation.

MASSOWAH IN THE TURKS' HANDS.

Porte after the conquest of Arabia Felix, and used to be governed by a Pacha from Constantihople. As the chief port on the African side of the Red Sea it was the centre of trade between Asia and the Dark Continent. Slaves and every other kind of African merchandise found an outlet at Massowah, whence native dhows transported them to Jeddah and other ports on the opposite Arabian shore. Turkey made several fruitless expeditions from Massowah for the purpose of conquering Abyssinia. In 1866, when, owing to Great Britain's intervention in Constantinople, the Sultan ceded Massowah and the whole of his dominions on the African coast line to Egypt, the Ottoman rule was little more than inal. Khedive Ismail immediately took steps to close the port of Massowah to Abyssinia, acting in this matter in accordance with the views of the Sultan, as there is an old Mahometan Prophecy to the effect that the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina will one day be razed to the second by the Abyssinians, an extended by the most disastrous consequences ind by the Abyssinians, an event which will for the followers of the Prophet throughout the world. Turks and Egyptians believe that as long the Abyssinians can be kept out of Massowah the danger will be averted, since they have no other port from which they can set sail on their on of destruction.

As Massowah is the only outlet for Abyssinian the Negus at once determined to oppose

the efforts of Khedive Ismail to close the seaport to his people. Before he could take any steps in that direction, however, the English in-THE EMPRESS OF ABYSSINIA AND HER vasion of Abyssinia under Lord Napier took place. The British army, composed partly of native regiments from the Highlands of Hindoostan, and partly from Scotch battalions, all wellseasoned men, disembarked on the coast and marched without the slightest delay under the Abyssinian plateau upon which they stormed their way. The troops had, therefore, no time to become subject to the enervating influence of the fever-stricken climate on the low-lying coast and were fresh and fit for fighting. The Abyssinians fought hard; but at that time they were neither so well armed nor so thoroughly organized as they are at present; and, moreover, the English had taken them more or less by surprise. Consequently, Negus Theodoros was defeated and killed, his stronghold captured, and his son carried off to England, where he died soon afterward, the British troops leaving the country as soon as they had accomplished their

THE SUCCESSOR OF THEODOROS.

During the anarchy that succeeded the defeat and death of Emperor Theodoros the Egyptians managed to obtain possession of the province of Boghos, with its capital of Keren, on the northern frontier. But in 1872 a cousin of Theodoros, Kassa by name, overcame his adversaries and caused himself to be crowned as Emperor of Abyssinla, thereupon setting to work to drive the Egyptians out of the country. Two Egyptian armies were sent against him, and were massacred almost to the last man, together with their European officers, who included a Hungarian count, Zichy; a Danish baron, Munzinger, and a Dutch count, Ahrendrup, brother of the former Governor of the West Indian island of St. Thomas, and well known in New-York. A third Egyptian army was thereupon sent, consisting of over 20,000 men, almost entirely officered by Europeans and Americans, and under the command of Prince Hassan, with the late American General Loring as chief of staff. This army shared the fate of its predecessors, only the American officers and Prince Hassan escaping with their lives. Before the Prince was released the Negus, remembering that Hassan was a Mahometan, caused a cross to be branded with a hot iron on the palm and back of each of his hands. It was for the purpose of hiding these scars that Hassan used always to wear gloves both out and indoors. THE EMPRESS TAOTI APPEARS.

It was about this time that Empress Taoti appeared upon the scene. Like her present husband, who is her cousin, she is descended in a direct line from the biblical Queen of Sheba and Solomon the wisest King of the Jews. In common with all the Princes and Princesses of Abyssinia's ancient dynasty, she was exiled by Emperor Theodoros in the early part of the sixties, and took refuge with her parents at the court of Gondar, where she made the acquaintance of and fell in love with her cousin, Prince Menelek, an exile like herself.

They were about to be married, when The dores suddenly invited them to his court, assuring them not only of the security of their lives and property, out also of his favor. Complying with his invitation, they returned, but with evil results as far as their mutual attachment was concerned for they had no sooner presented themselves before Theodoros than he also fell in love with Taoti, and insisted on making her his wife, giving Menclek one of his own daughters in marriage.

Empress Taoti, as she had now become, was Empress Taoti, as she had now become, was subjected to such ill-treatment by her savage husband that his death at the storming of Magdala some few months later came to her in the light of a deliverance from untild misery, and she quickly consoled herself by conferring her hand and heart upon a general of the name of Ualde Gabriel. On his also being killed in battle a year later, she became the wife of General Tackle Ghiorghis, commander-in-chief of the army of the King of Tigre. Dissatisfied with the union, she soon obtained a divorce from him and then married the Governor of Egiou, but had not lived with him more than three months before Emperor John caused him to be thrown into prison and executed. Renthrown into prison and executed. Ren-desperate by her matrimonial misad-ee, she sought refuge in the Convent of Meni and became a nun. It did not take Debra-Meni and became a nun. Deora-Meni and became a min.

long, however, to convince her that she was not made for convent life, and accordingly she obtained a dispensation from her vows from the archbishop or Abounah of Abyssinia, and married a man of the name of Zeccaragagiou, whose only merit seems to have been his wealth, and only merit seems to have been his want, who ill-used her in the most shameful manner, being accustomed to flog her most unmercifully. Making use of the old-fashioned plea that she was anxious "to pay a visit to her mother," she managed to get away from him and to take refuge in a neighboring province, carrying away with her a considerable portion of his wealth.

TRUE TO HER EARLY LOVE. It was while living with her brother in the Ephrata province in 1882 that she was brought for the first time into contact again with her first lover and fiance, Menelek, who had meanwhile become King of Shoa. Their meeting had the effect of reviving all the infatuation between the two, and in spite of his being already married. Menelek persuaded the ex-Empress Taoti to take up her abode with him. Of course Menelek's wife, Queen Tofana, objected. But she was quickly divorced, and her death followed the dissolution of her marriage with an altogether suspicious rapidity. Taoti was thus left without any rival in the affections of her lord, and was married to him with imposing ceremony in 1885, being at the time thirty-five years old. Ever since then she has exercised a marvellous influence over her husband, who consults her about everything and invariably follows her advice. It was due to her clever and sagacious counsels that he formed that rill-ance with the late Emperor John which had the result of assuring to him the succession to the latter's throne. And the astonishing shrewdness with which he has managed for ten years past to oppose all the efforts made by the Italian Government in the shape of intrigue and of armed attack to obtain possession of his country is justly ascribed both by his people and by his foes to the remarkable cleverness of his dusky consort, Empress Taoti, the "Queen of Queens," and "the sun and light of Ethiopia."

EX-ATTACHE. left without any rival in the affections of her

A NEW GILBERT LYRIC.

JULIA'S BALLAD FROM "THE GRAND DUKE." Gilbert and Sullivan's latest operetta, "The Grand

Duke," was produced in London last evening. The performance and its success are described at length this morning in The Tribune's London cable dis-patch. The following ballad, sung by Julia, the heroine, is of a thoroughly Gilbertian turn in conception and execution, and is a capital example of how the witty librettist invites characteristic and flowing melody from his associate:

How would I play this part—
The Grand Duke's bride?
All rancor in my heart
I'd duly hide—
I'd drive it from my recollection
And 'wheim you with a mock affection,
Weil calculated to defy detection—
That's how I'd play this part,
The Grand Duke's bride.

With many a winsome smile
I'd witch and woo;
With gay and girlish guile
I'd fremzy you—
I'd madden you with my caressing.
Like turtle her first love confessing.
That it was "mock" no mortal would be guessing.
With so much winsome wile
I'd witch and woo.

Did any other maid
With you succeed.
I'd pinch the forward jade—
I would indeed!
With jealous frenzy agitated
(Which would of course, be simulated).
I'd make her wish she'd never been created—
Did any other maid
With you succeed!

And should there come to me,
Some summers hence.
In all the childish glee
Of innocence.
Fair babes aglow with beauty vernal,
My heart would bound with joy diurnal!
This sweet display of sympathy materna..
Well, that would also be
A mere pretence!

My histrionic art,
Though you deride,
That's how I'd play that part—
The Grand Duke's bride!

SOLDIERS OF ITALY.

THE MEN WHO MAKE THE ARMY AND THE ARMY THAT THEY MAKE.

HOW THE GREAT FORCE HAS BEEN BUILT UP AND ORGANIZED-THE CHOICE OF RECRUITS-DIVISIONS OF THE SOLDIERY AND

BRANCHES OF THE SERVICE.

The recent reverse of Italian arms carries with it a terrible suggestion. It is that the modern European system of supporting an enormous and expensive army and navy at whatever cost to the other interests of the country may sap the energies of the whole people, cripple its resources, bring pov erty and wretchedness, create, spread and foster discontent, and yet fail utterly to accomplish its own object in time of need. This view of the case would not be so pronounced and so obvious if Italy had met her calamity in an encounter with another nation which had followed the same military methods. If equal and similar preparations have been made on both sides they must fail in an encounter, on one side or the other, no matter how extensive and elaborate they are. But if the great modern European military system is worth anything at all, it ought to succeed when a nation that has it fights

against a nation that does not have it. The very blood and marrow of the Italian people are drained out of it in order that Italy may present a bold front to the world and defy attack or encroachment on that which would prove hollow and empty if once the defending wall were down. For the military and naval wall itself is the whole | up and then the names are drawn till the number

Milan, Naples, Rome and Messina for the training of officers. For the simpler people, with no hope and no aspirations to command anybody or anything, but still good enough to shoot a little and be shot at a good deal, there is the institution of target practice. Any young fellow likes to have a gun put into his hands and to be permitted to shoot at a mark and to try to hit it oftener than somebody else. The Government sets up targets and provides guns. Societies are formed wherever enough members can be found. Those who can pay to shoot do pay, and those who cannot pay shoot for nothing. Every year there is a big shooting match, and prizes are given. And so the italians have had the military spirit cultivated in them; they have been led up toward it and encouraged in it, and though they may still see objections and hardships in it, yet may still see objections and hardships in it, yet they have come to accept it, and the Italian army have grown to be what it is.

THE THREE KINDS OF SOLDIERS. There are three general divisions of the army The first is the regular and permanent army, ready for any and all duty anywhere and at any time, and composed of men of twenty years old and upward, for it is between the ages of twenty and thirty-nine that the Italian youth is expected to be ready to serve his country at call. These are the men of the First Category. Then there is the Second Category, the movable militia. This is a body ready at call to second the efforts of the regular army. After this is the territorial militia, which is subject to call in an extremity, and is composed, generally speaking, in either of the other two divisions.

The choice of the young men for soldiers is made by lot. Each year the list for the district is made



strong and efficient shell, with no meat inside to be covered by the shell. "Every citizen is a soldier" is the principle of Italy, but if there is nothing but a soldier in a country, what is the soldier tion of itself. It is a machine built for the sole purpose of fighting, for the sale sake of the fighting. Italy spends perhaps a fifth of its national income on its army and navy-nine or ten times as much as it spends on public instruction, to name only one other item of the expenses to be accounted for. To do this the people are taxed all but beyond bearing. The fish in the fisherman's net are taxed, the signs on the shops are taxed, the matches that the old woman sells in the street are taxed, the peasant's crop is taxed before it ripens, and if it falls to ripen it is his loss. The country is all but bankrupt as a country, and the people as individuals are wretched beyond belief Nowhere else in the world, it is said, except in some of the very worst slums of some of the very largest cities, is there such deep and general misery as among the poor of Naples. In other Italian cities the situation is only a little less terrible. The people love the King, who has shown himself personally brave and faithful and devoted to them, but how they distrust and hate the Government is shown by the conduct of the mobs in more than one city when the news came of the defeat of the army. And all this condition is brought about because Italy must have the luxury of an army to vie with those of larger and richer and more prosperous nations. Then, if that army is defeated and overwhelmed when it fights, what has been gained by all the expense and the sacrifice and the suffer-

ing and the wrong? BUILDING THE MILITARY POWER. For nearly forty years the work of building up and perfecting this army has gone on. At first the mer



BUGLER, ALPINE REGIMENT.

objected to being taken away from their homes and from the work of supporting their families for military duty. They hid themselves and had to be hunted out and brought to the places whither their King and their country called them. Afterward they found it was of no use to resist, and they sub-mitted. Then it came to be regarded as a matter of course, and finally something like interest was created. It was a solace to the poor, and it did much to reconcile them to the situation that the rich had to be soldiers as well as themselves. There were other things that made them better pleased with military service than they had felt inclined to be at first. They found themselves better clothed and fed than when they were at home and looked after those details for themselves. The army fare might be simple or at times even coarse, but recruit was dressed in a fine suit, with bright color and ornamentation, a thing to be admired, and the best of it was that the uniform belonged to him. If there was any wear left in it when his term of active cervice was over, he was at liberty to sell it to the contractor for whatever it was adjudged to be worth. This rule, besides pleasing the recruit mightly, served another good purpose, for the hope of getting a good price for his clothes when he should be done with them inclined him to be more careful to keep them well. It made him neat in his habits and he made a prettier show on parade. Then, again, there are reduced railway fares for the army. The soldier himself travels for about a quarter of the regular rates, and the other members of his family for about half. It may be that Italian peasants are not much given to rail-way travel, but the mere privilege of getting someing at half price is one that appeals powerfully to many minds.

Other things fostered the military spirit and helped the Government to bring its army into its present fine condition, for it is a fine army, in spite

strength of Italy, a pretentious and perhaps a really ; which is to be levied in that quarter has been secured. This is for the First Category. names are drawn for the Second Category. movable militia is made up of these and of old soldiers who have done their share of active service. for? It is as if a great fortress were an entire namilitary duty go into the third division, the least exacting of the service. They may be men in poor



A BERSAGLIER

health, or it may be that they are especially needed for ordinary work at home. Their parents or other relatives may be old or infirm and need their sup-

relatives may be old or infirm and need their support, or there may be other special reasons. This
division includes some also who have served certain
lengths of time in the higher ones, eight years in
the regular army or four in the movable militia.

When the young men are thus enrolled as soldiers, the next question is that of their disposition
in the Army. That is to say, of those who are enrolled in the Regular Army. In this the kind of
if in the Regular Army. In this the kind of
if the they come from makes some difference. The
young peasant, used to digging and ditching, and
more accustoned as yet to the spade than to the
fiftearm, is likely to be put into the Engineer Corps.
This is a branch of the service that has been held of
greater importance of late years than it was formerly, and it has been kept busily at work with
large results. If the new soldier is a mountaineer
he will probably be put in one of the Alpine regiments. Italy has a good deal of mountainous territory, especially on her frontier, and it is found
that the manoeuvring of troops in rough and hilly
places is a very different matter from their manage
ment on a smooth parade ground. Hence regiments
are especially chosen and trained for this.

But the manoeuvring of choice there may be,
care is taken that every regiment shall have in it
men from upper, men from central and men from
lower Italy. The King wants to rule one
lidly, not a dozen, or even three. An Italy
united in every respect is the aim. Men from a
single provinces must not be allowed to stay apart by
themselves. They must know one another, learn one another's ways and habits and
words and thoughts, and become more and more one
people.

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SERVICE.

THE STRENGTHENING OF THE SERVICE. With all these means of recruiting soldiers, of holding them together, and of making them loyal



PRIVATE, ENGINEER CORPS. and comparatively contented, a basis has naturally been formed for the improvement of the whole service and the strengthening of its weak parts. Thus it is only within twenty years, or even less, that the cavairy branch has been much developed. The country, especially in Northern Italy, was



OFFICER, ROYAL PIEDMONT REGIMENT. equipment as to guns was receiving equal care and was improving with equal rapidity. This was the case with the armaments of fortifications, as well as with the fold armaments.

A PROUD AND POPULAR CORPS.

An account of the Italian army would be incom plete without some mention of that remarkable corps the Bersaglieri. These soldiers are great faorites with the public and they are great favorites with themselves. No implication that they are not with themselves. No implication that they are not justly so is intended. A Bersaglieri wants it distinctly understood that he is one. He does not want to be confused in anybody's mind with the common herd of the rest of the army. If, by any chance, he passes into another branch of the service, he takes care to mention, at some point of every conversation that he ever holds with anybody that he was a Bersaglieri. A peculiarity of the corps is its mode of locomotion. This is especially rapid, its ordinary march being a sort of quick trot. In this the corps is absolutely unique, the step being unknown to any other soldiers in the world. It is further distinguished by big, flaunting plumes of cock's feathers. It has already been mentioned that the Hersaglieri are favorites with the populace, and they are no less so with the authorities. When the troops were sent to Africa in 1887 they were fitted out with new uniforms appropriate to the climate which they were to encounter. These included Stanley helmets, but the Bersaglieri were permitted, as a mark of special favor, to keej their plumes of cock feathers.

A point in which the army of Italy differs from those of some other European countries is that members of its various departments, as the commissary and ambulance departments, the accountants, etc., hold official ranks similar and equal to those of the strictly military branches.

This, then, is the army that has been built up for King Humbert and for Italy. It has been a mighty work, carried through with a clear purpose, with skill, determination and energy. The soldery has been increased, organized, strengthened, trained, taught, modernized, recreated. What it has cost Italy only those who have seen the country and its people can realize. There has been a defect of the has the has it. justly so is intended. A Bersaglieri wants it dis-

time forth she stopped at no crime in order to secure her horrible cosmetic. More than two hundred young and beautiful girls are known to have been murdered either by her hands or by those of her aged maid, Helen lo; her nurse, Catherine her aged maid, Heien 10, her hurse, Catherine Benetzky, or her dwarf, Fierko, at her Viennese palace alone; while at her castle of Cseith, in Hungary, over three hundred more were put to death.

The total number of her innocent victims, according to absolutely official reports, numbered 850 girls, and this alarming figure would have been much larger-as large, indeed, as that attributed to her by legend-had not the authorities at last

From The Anaconda (Mont.) Standard.

Len Henry, a well-known pioneer, relates an adventure that is out of the usual order. He was travelling on a narrow trail above the raging Grande Ronde River, when he cams to a landslide about twenty feet across, that left no trail or even an inche in the smooth precipitous rock. The trail was so narrow that the horse could not turn back. He was trapped. Above the twenty-foot break in the trail was a sharp crag of overhanging rock. On his saddle bow was a strong riata sixty feet long, and Harry is an expert in the use of it. He steadled himself upon the saddle, swung the rope over his head, and hurled it high into the air. It was settled firmly over the crag. He tried it carefully. It was firm. His saddle was a new and strong one, with double cinches. Around the horn he wound the rope. He urged the horse on to the edge of the precipice.

The faithful beast stood firm. He would not step over, but the rider drew up the slack and pulled with all his power. Inch by inch he drew the straining horse forward till his feet slipped and he swung over the chasm. The rider held his breath as he looked at the river below and the slender rope above, but he was across the gap. He sprang up the trail and tugged at the reins to aid the horse in gaining his feet. He pulled and the horse lunged up into the trail with the chasm back behind. Mr. Henry rode away and left his rope dangling for the use of the next wayfarer who chanced to come that way. From The Anaconda (Mont.) Standard.

From The Birmingham Post.

A GOOSE FROZEN IN THE LAKE.

From The Mount Sterling (Ky.) Advocate.

One of our farmers was in the city Monday and told of the sudden change in temperature on Grassy Lick, saying that a goose was on the bond and before it could get to the bank ice formed around it and froze its feathers so that when morning came the ice had to be broken before the goose could be taken out. His friends to whom he told this doubted the farmer's sincerity, but when another gentleman ioined in and said he had seen cranes ice-bound in the same way, it was accepted as real. From The Mount Sterling (Ky.) Advocate.

FISH IN AN OLD WELL.

From The Louisville Courier-Journal.

Some queer fish were taken out of the recently reopened well on the United States Fish Station at San Marcos, Tex. There were several salamanders, varying in length from an inch and a half to four and a half inches. These creatures live on land or water, have human-looking faces, hands and feet, buildog head, tail of an eel and body of fish. There were also large numbers of shrimps, resembling sea shrimp, only much smaller. It is an artesian well and everybody wants to know where the creatures come from. From The Louisville Courier-Journal.

## JUJUTSU.

CURIOUS STYLES OF WRESTLING PRACE TISED IN JAPAN-A "GENTLE

ART" IN NAME ONLY.

The national athletic exercises of the Japanese are few in number. They are not, as a people, fond of outdoor sports. Cricket and baseball have been introduced, but only a faint enthusiasm is exhibited for either, the majority condemning both games as childish or unmanly. Rowing is coming each year into greater favor, yet regettas are held by the students of only two or three Government sch publicity necessarily attendant upon such exhibitions being disliked.

There are, in fact, only three kinds of athletic exercises in which the Japanese consent to take part, or which they deem worthy of cultivation. The first, a kind of polo, is now known to very few people. It is a game requiring much skill, constant practice, a steady eye and no mean knowledge of horsemanship. There are few old families in which this fine sport is still kept up, for it has always been a game patronized exclusively by noblemen of samural of higher rank.

Then comes kenjutsu, the "sword art," or feneing, an athletic exercise of the highest value, and one which has been developed in a purely national manner, the whole art being totally different from what it is in other countries. The sword is held in both hands, the attacks and parries are novel and subject to unusual rules, yet it is an exercise emi-nently calculated to bring every muscle of the body into play, to train the eye and quicken the perceptive faculties: for, Japanese swordsmen are wont to say, the secret of success is to perceive what stroke the opponent is about to give before he actually lunges, or, in other words, to read the opponent's thoughts. Prior to the Restoration, a knowledge of fencing was vastly more important than an acquaintance with reading and writing. Every samurai was taught that his trenchant blade was as his very soul, and even merchants and craftsmen, such as had no right to wear swords, were given to practising the art as the best form of self-defence. But since the early years of the Meiji period fencing has gone greatly out of vogue, though it is still kept up, and in quiet streets one can often hear the clash of the split-bamboo fencing-sticks mingling with the shouts of the combatants.

Yet the art of fencing will never again be what is once was. With the secret of forging those matchless blades of Bizen, the masterpleces of such men as Masamune and Horimitsu, the great love for the art has passed away. It is now practised mostly by youths who take it up as a sort of hygienic exer-cise. There used to be hundreds of celebrated masters of the sword; at present there are not so many

is still kept alive, and this, in the opinion of the greatest and most patriotic men of Japan, should become still more popular and enjoy widespread favor. This is "jujutsu," literally the "gentle art," a misnomer, indeed, if it is supposed to imply any passive condition, for of all athletic exercises it demands the greatest amount of physical activity.

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Some of the forms of this art are "kite-ryu," the standing and falling style; the "fenshin-shinyoryu," the willow style; and the "shingan-ryu," true face style. Moreover, each and every style includes the two departments of "satsu" or "atemi," the art of rendering an opponent powerless, of suffocating, laming or otherwise putting him hors de combat; and "katsu," the art of reviving an unconscious person, or one apparently dead.

In hoth these decembers

dead.

In both these departments really marvellous things are taught, many of which would surprise even medical adepts. Bone-setting, after a peculiar and secret fashion, is also included in the mysteries of the art.

PROTECTION FOR STRIPED BASS.

ACTION BY THE LEGISLATURE PROPOSED TO PRE

VENT THE EXTINCTION OF A MUCH-PRIZED GAME FISH.

A bill will soon be introduced in the Legislature having for its object the protection of striped bass. If it goes through, no striped bass must be caught between the first day of December and the first day of June, nor will any of the fish be allowed in the markets. Some legislation of the kind is rendered necessary by the alarming decrease in the number of this game fish in New-York waters.

The fishing clubs of New-York, Brooklyn and adjacent towns have a total membership not far short of 20,000. In addition to these there are the thousands of people who fish in the waters around New-York during the summer. Anything affecting the striped bass, the most prized fish caught in this locality, is of considerable interest to all fishermen. The members of the fishing clubs, who are many of them men of influence, are all in favor of the

Artificial cultivation of striped bass is exceedingly difficult. The fish are not plentiful enough h during the spawning season to make it possible to gather eggs enough to start artificial propagation. When L. D. Huntington was president of the New-York State Fish Commission two years ago, he made a strong effort to replenish the supply around New-York City. The fish are plentiful in North Carolina, and spawn there in May, one month

Carolina, and spawn there in May, one month earlier than they do here. Arrangements were made to have a quantity of fish hatched out there and forwarded to New-York. Unfortunately, severe freshets in the rivers washed the fish out to sea, and the catch was too meagre to make it worth while to strip the eggs.

The dumping of garbage has undoubtedly helped largely to thin out the striped bass. The net fishermen are chiefly responsible, however, for the growing scarcity of the fish. During November it is always found in the North River, and great quantities are caught in fyke nets. If the net fishing were stopped for a time, and the spawning season made close for all kinds of fishing, the fish would soon begin to multiply.

made close for all kinns of issue, it is not a migratory fish, but stays all its life in a comparatively limited area. The catching of a female fish during the spawning season means the loss of from 100,000 to 1,000,000 eggs. From this great number of eggs few fish come to maturity, as the enemies of the spawn are many, and a young bases has an extremely exciting existence until it is old enough to take care of itself.

EARNING A REWARD.

From The Birmingham Post.

A certain Bonelli, singled out by fate to display to the world the utter insignificance of human resolve, being regarded by the whole province in which he lived as a model for the rest of mankind, according to the view of human virtue taken at Bocognano, is the hero of the tale. This man, on being told that a heavy reward had been offered for the capture or "destruction" of the handit Cappa, who had become the scourge of the country, loaded his gun, went out on the instant, and shot down the beggar of the village, who was known to pass through a lonely path at a certain hour of the day. He then set fire to the corpse of the beggar, and went to the authorities to claim the reward, but even before he had touched the blood-money thus earned, the bandit Cappa himself appeared, and forthwith the judges, seance tenante, pronounced judgment against Bonelli. All this has just taken place in Corsica. The jury condemned the traitor Bonelli to the guillotine for the murder of the poor mendicant, who had been much beloved throughout the whole country.

AMONG THE IMMORTALS. From The London Literary World.

Mr. Alfred Austin is among the latest additi